

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 IO-10 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

----- 122600

R 061230Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8460

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PINT, PINS, MI, ZA, MZ

SUBJ: ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

1. YESTERDAY JOHN NGIWIRI RAISED ABOVE SUBJECT WITH ME AND REFERRED TO MY MENTION OF SAMETO PERMANENT SECY OF EXTAFF KACHINGWE. HE SAID, "OF COURSE YOU KNOW THESE STORIES ARE UNTRUE." I SAID THAT I ASSUMED THIS BUT THAT ALL I KNOW IS THAT THE DENOMINATION IS ILLEGAL IN MALAWI AND ASKED HIM IF HE COULD TELL ME WHAT IS BEING DONE BY THE GOM WITH REGARD TO JW'S. NGWIRI THEN REVIEWED THE BACK-GROUND LEADING TO THE CURRENT SITUATION STRESSING PRIMARILY THE SUPREMACY OF THE MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY AS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY IN MALAWI FROM WHICH THE GOVERNMENT TSELF DEPENDS; THAT DEFIANCE OF PARTY CANNOT BE PERMITTED AND SUCH PERSISTENT DEFIANCE BY JW'S HAS RESULTED IN THEIR ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT.

2. I TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON HIM THE NATURE OF THE WORLD-WIDE CAMPAIGN RE ALLEGED ATROCITIES AND PROBABLE DAMAGE TO MALAWI'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE UNLESS GOM MAKES FORTHRIGHT RESPONSE. SUGGESTED PUBLIC STATEMENT OR RELEASE ALONG LINES OF STATEMENT HE HAD MADE TO ME WOULD BE HELPFUL. (HOPEFULLY IT WOULD INCLUDE CATEGORIC DENIAL OF THE REPORTED ATROCITIES ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MAKE SUCH A DENIAL TO ME.) HE INDICATED HE WOULD CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY.

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3. COMMENT: WE HAD STILL RECEIVED NO COFNIRMATION OF ATROCITY STORIES DESPITE CONSTANT DISCREET CHECKING. OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT IF THESE THINGS HAPPENED IT WAS IN LATE AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER; THAT NOW THE GOVERNMENT IS IN TIGHT CONTROL OF SITUATION AND ACTION AGAINST WITNESSES CONSISTS OF ARREST, TRIAL, AND IMPRISONMENT FOR THOSE ADMITTING MEMBERSHIP.

4. IF GOM MAKES ANY STATEMENTSIN ANSWER TO CHARGES IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE PRES BANDA'S DECISION, BUT NGWIRI WILL, I THINK, RAISE POSSIBILITY WITH HIM. NGWIRI DID NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE THAT AMBASSADOR MUWAMBA HAD ISSUED A STATEMENT, BUT IT CLEAR TO ME THAT NOT ALL FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS GO THROUGH HIM, THAT SECY KACHIMGWE ALSO HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO PRES BANDA.  
STEVENSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, MISSIONARIES, RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, ATROCITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BLANTY00019  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by adamsodm>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
**TAGS:** SHUM, SREF, PINT, PINS, MI, ZA, MZ, JEHOVAHS WITNESSES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006